Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

#### Table 1

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

**Question**: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Access to Filipino community and community center (on MLK and Juneau)
  - Bus access to light rail
- Dream of "Philippine Village"
  - Zoning change for building expansion
- visibility of businesses along MLK
- Traffic access to businesses
- Open spaces//parks
  - Safety within gathering places
- Community gathering space
  - Encourage cultural diversity and interaction
- Walkability/access

#### Traffic

- Graham and 39<sup>th</sup> Ave (school)
  - Signal (safety)
  - Drivers use 37<sup>th</sup> as alternative; road too narrow
- Are sidewalks to stations sufficiently wide?
- Othello
- Parking permit zones
- ADA/wheelchair access
  - Within ¼ mile
  - Recommend ADA parking sticker within parking permit zone

Transportation modes to schools and businesses

- Busses
- Walking
- Sufficient striping and signage
  - Visibility and maintenance

#### Street Lighting

• Trees covering light fixtures

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

• OK by light rail stations

Pedestrian bridge at MLK/Rainier

- Underused
- People generally jaywalk which slows traffic
- City to renovate/improve
- Poor connection to rail station (and incorporate a latte shop promote more people to use
  it)

**Question**: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Curious
- Uncertainty
- Excitement
- Access to airport
- Behind in mass transit in comparison to other US cities
- Maintenance of neighborhoods around stations and stations
- Construction of stations and rail has already improved neighborhood image
- Train maintenance
  - Cleanliness
  - No vandalism
- Fares reasonable?
- Surface train vs. tunnel
- Positive reaction and effects
- Security concerns

**Question**: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Recycling bins
- Solar panels
- Rain barrel (collection)
- Livability closer to rail stations
  - Increase and density?
  - Encourage ridership and non-motorized access to stations
- "Nimby" vs. "rimby"
  - Increased density
  - More neighbors = better or more services
  - "Rimby" ok re: density if home ownership is encouraged
  - People maintain homes if they own their property

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

**Question**: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Density around transit stations
- Concern about infrastructure and utility capacity's ability to accommodate increased density
- Look at existing conditions
- Ensure that new development <u>enhances</u> rather than <u>destroys</u> neighborhood environment
- Possibility/concern about gentrification and displacement
- Continue welcoming neighborhood
- Economic diversity
  - Income
  - Business
- Grow at a measured pace
- Businesses
  - Fossil fuel dependency
  - Alternative energy sources
  - Reuse/recycling of energy
  - What can we do locally?
  - Update electrical/utility systems within homes in area of light rail?
  - What are the economic effects to individual residents
- Environment Economy and Equity
- Equity tends to be overlooked
- Preservation of exiting economic mix
- Benefits back to residents, not in developers' pockets
- Market rate housing
- Community is being forced to take growth/density
- Tax of financial burden should be shared w/city (larger jurisdiction <u>not</u> only local community)
- Is density a burden or a benefit?
- Government subsidies to encourage growth

#### Global sustainability

- Egalitarian community
- Reduce economic extremes
- What direction is Seattle headed?
  - Encourage increase of middle class
  - Society as a whole is moving away from egalitarianism and Seattle may reflect that

**Question**: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

• Cars parked on sidewalk

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Fences on sidewalks
- Too many obstacles for pedestrian access
- Monies/funds that were previously dedicated to sidewalk improvements now going to projects outside of SE Seattle
- Sidewalk maintenance and building sidewalks if missing
- Safe pedestrian access needs to be more of a priority
- Traffic conditions?
  - Some speed bumps/circles
  - Othello street parking on sidewalks
- Need long-term funding strategy

#### Link between busses and light rail stations

- Time schedule of busses
  - 15 minute service all directions all day
- Will there be closing of bus stops?
- Metro and Sound Transit are working together
- Lack of intermode access transfer between Metro and Sound Transit
- Integrated fare structure not currently existing
- Light rail hours of operation
  - Will be closed 1:00 AM 4:00 AM
- N-S bus service to LRT stations need better E-West bus service
- Fare structure of transfers?
  - ORCA?
  - Vending machine for tickets?

Pedestrian/sidewalk/street structure on the west side of MLK in planning area

Large blocks

**Question from community**: Is location of LRT stations the driving factor in neighborhood planning updates?

- How does ¼ mile or ½ mile radius affect update?
- Linear vs. Infill development
- MLK should be the focus of TOD development

Table 1, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

**Question**: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Something that is loved and will last for a long time
- Too much paving exists today
- Stormwater management

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Run-off from vehicles into Puget Sound and Lake Washington
- Remove paving and replace with green space/material
- Chicago program/plan of "green" alleys
- Drain and culvert system
- Affordable and usable business and residential spaces
- Functional spaces in relation to demographics of household size
- Provide jobs in proximity to residences
- Choices in housing types
- Fewer cars reduce use
- Community gardens
- Not currently pedestrian friendly
  - Building scale
  - Asphalt
  - Sidewalk buffer
  - Encourage "good" design
  - Aesthetics Art, trees, green
- Reduce concrete usage in building materials

#### Zoning

- Dictation of building types and lot use
- Concrete removal vs. cost and replacement
- Sustain/create a unique feel to neighborhood
- Takes time to make changes around rail station
- Infrastructure and discourages car uses and increases green space
- How does ¼ mile or ½ mile radius affect your idea of growth?
- Radius measures where determined by ideal "walkable" distance
- Relevent for parking zone, <u>not</u> relevant as it dictates growth
- Infrastructure and development areas <u>not</u> relevant as it affects zoning

**Question**: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Link light rail and connect to service
- Better bus connections
- Metro process (sounding board)
- North-south connections sufficient
- East-west connections needed
- Bicycle

#### Funding for Metro

- 20% cut in service despite 20% increase in ridership
- Comparison of LRT to other cities

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Multi-modal connections to light rail
- Speed of traffic along corridors (main roads) despite encouragement of a pedestrian-friendly environment
  - SPD speeds
  - Use of sirens
- Crime rates/volume
- How to encourage ridership if emergency response time is high
- Is having an increased police presence sufficient?
  - Officers on foot
  - Officers on bicycle
- Idea of "Build it and they will come." Is it true?
- parking requirement for businesses that sell goods
- additional parking is <u>not</u> needed

#### Table 2

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

**Question**: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- Open space desirable
- Parks used by community
- Safe and secure
  - Eyes on the park
  - City programming Othello Park Alliance
- Good building frontage
- Pea patches
- SE Seattle no branch of community college = S Seattle Community College (green technology)
- Carry "Main Street Quality" near Othello station
- New development welcomed
- "OPUS" development
- Open lots need to be developed
- "Fear" of intensive development
- Trails have poor landscaping. Chief Sealth
- More "community gardens" and pea patches
- Activities (programs) at
- Othello Park and Chief Sealth trail
- August festival music?
- Brighton playfield
- Identify "grants" for urban improvements
- City/neighborhood partnerships
- Grant writing training and technical assistance

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**Question**: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Coordinate Train and bus
- East-west circulation difficult
- Circulator bus
- Rail stations too far apart
- MLK walking more infill of vacant lots

**Question**: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Concentrated uses that meet daily uses of residents
- Frequent transit service
- Support small business development and retention
- Farmer's market potential
- Food security
- Safeway is "for sale"
- What will help retain services?
- Green education to diverse groups = "cost savings"
- Transit use = sustainability
- Greater frequency of #48 bus
  - Taken for school
  - Full at pulse times
  - Need bus service to schools
- Need direct access to Holly clinic and services and other important community destinations
- Need "Metro" representative and planning meetings
- Better link between Beacon Hill and Othello
- Could use circulator bus service more E/W access
- Walkable E/W is difficult
- Senior Centers
  - Rainier and Holly
  - Holly Clinic
  - ACRS Juneau
  - Filipino CC @ Juneau and MLK

## Economic sustainability

- Tax vacations for seniors
  - Reduced property taxes
- Economic security
- Character stability
  - Economics
  - Affordability for residents and small businesses
  - Diversity
- List diverse uses for neighborhood

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

Table 2, Session 2 10:30 11:30

**Question**: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Trees
- Tree preservation
- Loss of mature trees
- Safety of business
- Safe access for shoppers
- More employment keeps youth busy. Helps safety
- Better educational access in community
- Need training to use existing skills (PR nursing assistant)
- Sound Transit "construction ESL"
- Cultural education exchange
- Preserving cultural identity within schools
- "African languages" not taught
- Concern Need to bridge gap of cultures for children coming to USA

**Question**: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Moving around a community
- Will use light rail
- How do businesses and schools relate. Business owners also go to school
- Public transportation is used by groups
- Bus could be more affordable. "Transit pass" with development

**Question**: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Increase recycle facilities
- Smaller cars
- Shared plug-in cars
- Follow recommendation of scientists, and then follow them
- Plant native grasses
- Draught tolerant plants
  - Saves water
  - Sustainable landscape design
- Rehab buildings to be more energy efficient
- City not prepared for climate changes snow